

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10

DRC-01 /091 W

----- 033285

R 251731Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7083

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIRLINES' MOVE TO CDG AIRPORT

REF: A) PARIS 4668, B) PARIS 4669

1. SPATER OF TWO PHONED EMBASSY FEB. 25 EXPRESSING SUDDENLY HIGHTENED CONCERN OVER INADEQUATE CONNECTING SERVICES AT CDG AIRPORT. HE HAS REALIZED THAT EVEN THOSE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS WHICH WOULD CONNECT WITH TWA FLIGHTS ARE NOT ALL DAILY FREQUENCIES, E. G., AF FLIGHT TO TOULOUSE DEPARTING CDG AT 1025 A M OPERATES ONLY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. MORE-MOVER, ONLY "SCHEDULING" INFO THAT TWA LIKE PANAM HAS RECEIVED IS PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY CHART SHOWING PLANNED CONNECTIONS, WHICH TWA FINDS INSUFFICIENT FOR MARKETING PURPOSES. SCHEDULING DETAIL NEEDED FOR MARKETING STILL HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED FROM FRENCH CARRIERS.

2. SPATER SAID TWA HAD AGREED TO MOVE TO CDG ON MARCH 13 BECAUSE IT HAD FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO ON BASIS OF WHAT IT UNDERSTOOD WAS GOF ORDER THAT IT OPERATE FROM CDG ON THAT DATE AND BECAUSE IT WAS CONFIDENT THAT PROMISED CONNECTING SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED. RECALLING THAT TWA DID NOT FULLY SHARE PANAM'S VIEWS
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ON IMPORTANCE OF FRENCH PROVINCIAL MARKET, SPATER

SAID THAT NONETHELESS CONNECTIONS TO PROVINCIAL POINTS WERE NOT WITHOUT INTEREST TO TWA. NICE-PARIS CONNECTION, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS OF MORE INTEREST TO TWA THAN PANAM SINCE LATTER DOES NOT DIRECT SERVICE TO NICE.; HOWEVER, NICE-PARIS SERVICE TO CDG WOULD BEGIN ONLY MARCH 20 AND TWA HAD BEEN TOLD PARIS-NICE SERVICE WOULD OPERATE ONLY BEGINNING APRIL 2. (PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY CHART DOES NOT INDICATE EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROPOSED CONNECTING FLIGHTS, INCIDENTALLY.) WE POINTED OUT TO SPATER THAT WHAT WAS AT ISSUE WAS PRINCIPLE OF MARKET ACCESS, WHICH SHOULD BE A MATTER OF AS MUCH CONCERN TO TWA AS TO PANAM.

3. AS FOR NICE SERVICE, SPATER SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US AIR FRANCE HAD CONFESSED TO ERROR TO PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY CHART IN THAT 8:30 AM DEPARTURE DAILY (EXCEPT SUNDAY) FOR NICE WAS ACTUALLY A LONDON FLIGHT. AS RESULT, NEITHER TWA NOR PANAM EARLY MORNING FLIGHTS ARRIVING AT CDG HAVE CONNECTION FOR NICE BEFORE THE TWO DAILY FLIGHTS TO THAT CITY DEPARTING AT 7:10 PM AND 8:30 PM. (COMMENT: CURRENT PARIS AIRPORT TIMETABLE THROUGH END MARCH SHOWS THIRTEEN FLIGHTS DAILY -- SLIGHTLY FEWER ON WEEKENDS -- OPERATED FROM ORLY TO NICE BY AIR FRANCE AND AIR INTER BETWEEN HOURS OF 8:50 AM AND 8:40 PM. OF THESE, FOUR FLIGHTS ARE LISTED AS OPERATING ONLY TO MARCH 19, HOWEVER.)

4. SPATER WAS THEREFORE PLANNING TO WRITE TO PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY COMPLAINING ABOUT POOR CONNECTING SERVICES OFFERED AT CDG. AFTER ALERTING HIM THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY MIGHT NOW BE PRECIPITATING SOME MOVEMENT WITHIN GOF, WE SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT BE BETTER ADVISED TO WRITE INSTEAD OF GRIMAUD OF SGAC WITH COPY TO PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY. (FYI -- SPATER SAID TWO INVESTMENT IN CDG WAS \$1.7 MILLION FOR BUILDINGS AND HE ESTIMATED ROUGHLY OVER-ALL COST OF MOVE AS BEING IN RANGE OF \$3-5 MILLION.)

5. RAUSCHENPLAT OF PANAM INFORMS US AIR CANADA IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASKING ITS EMBASSY INTERCEDE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PROTEST OVER INADEQUACY OF CONNECTING SERVICES AT CDG. IRWIN

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